

Dreier added some members of the institution itself to the list of groups responsible for creating hostility toward Congress.

"Many of the problems that are out there, I think have been caused by members in Congress . . . who have made a career of attacking the United States Congress," he said.

CNN correspondent Candy Crowley said public apathy represents a more serious threat to the institution's ability to engage in discourse and pass laws.

"I don't think the anger is a problem," she said. "The idea that it's not relevant is a problem."

The speakers had little time to come up with specific solutions for what ails Congress or for how to restore the Public's confidence. That daunting task will be left to future forums, said Ted Kaufman, a Duke law professor and former Senate staffer who is the center's co-chairman.

Pollster Peter Hart actually had some good news for the two members of Congress taking part in the discussion. His latest poll showed a 48 percent approval rating for the job Congress is doing, one of the highest in recent memory. A booming economy and the lack of a national crisis are two of the big reasons.

However, as if to illustrate that opinion surveys can show just about anything, Hart said the public's confidence in Congress as an institution is still rock-bottom: Only 21 percent say they have a "great deal" of confidence.

"That's the difference between performance, which will fluctuate up and down, and the other element, which is, 'How do I feel about the institution as a whole?'" he said. "Only the national news media fall below the Congress in confidence."

HONORING HELEN WRIGHT OF ZANESVILLE, OH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues.

Helen Wright of Zanesville, OH will be retiring on December 19, after 10 years of employment from the Zanesville-Muskingum County Port Authority. Ms. Wright served as the secretary of the Port Authority where she displayed much commitment and devotion to the region.

An achievement of this magnitude requires a great deal of hard work and dedication. Ms. Wright has diligently served mid-eastern Ohio for 10 years and deserves to be commended. It is precisely people like her that makes our community a better place to live and grow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Helen Wright for her service to the Zanesville-Muskingum Port Authority. I wish her continued health, success, and prosperity in her retirement. Congratulations Ms. Wright.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONTRACTING PRACTICES

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the revitalization of our Nation's capital will require the

participation and commitment of both the public and private sectors. Public-private partnerships will be the anchor of any economic revitalization. This goal will be successful only if all participants are assured that this is a sincere effort, with a level playing field, and not simply an extension of the two decades of poor policy decisionmaking that helped spiral Washington, DC, into its recent situation.

The Congress has no desire to run the daily affairs of the city. However, the Congress does have a unique constitutional responsibility to the District of Columbia. Without micro-managing the affairs of the city, the Congress does need to ensure that as a matter of Federal policy, it will: support public-private efforts designed to assist in the Capital's revitalization; support creative, imaginative, and unique approaches; support the streamlining of the Federal and District review and regulatory processes, where appropriate, to encourage revitalization; and exercise appropriate oversight to ensure that the District honors all of its contractual and financial commitments.

It is well understood by the Congress that the District of Columbia continues to suffer from past financial problems. For example, the District of Columbia has experienced issues with a number of its current vendors as a result of its prior reputation of poor payment performance. A recent newspaper article documented that one of the reasons for schools not having textbooks was " * * * twelve textbook companies refused to ship books because the District still owes for previous orders."

Prior negligence in these matters created a ripple effect that has a broad and negative reach. Vendors have been discouraged from responding to D.C. RFP's because of concerns over the selection process. Congress can assist in eliminating this perception without direct intervention. Congress can also assure all current and prospective private sector partners and their respective lenders that it will monitor and respond appropriately to any failing by the government of the District of Columbia to meet acceptable government contracting practices.

PRAIRIE ROSE CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a belated recognition of the efforts of the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in their continuing effort to remind all Americans of the importance of the U.S. Constitution. This year, in honor of Constitution Day, the DAR published a series of Constitution Sidelights, which I am honored to submit to the RECORD.

These sidelights demonstrate that the Founders were real human beings with individual idiosyncrasies. This forces us to remember that they rose above their individual quirks to develop a political system that led to the freest, most prosperous, and most tolerant society that the world has ever known.

The Constitution's balance of powers, rights, and responsibilities provide the groundwork for

this society. But it is only when citizens know their freedoms, rights, and duties that the promise of our Constitution can be realized in our daily lives.

It is groups like the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution that have put in the time and energy to remind our citizens of this. They deserve all of our support and praise for the fine work they do.

NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CONSTITUTION SIDELIGHTS 1997-1988

1. Author-historian James McGregor Burns characterized the delegates to the Constitutional Convention as "the well bred, the well fed, the well read, and the well wed."

2. The final form of the Constitution was put to a vote on September 17, 1787. Thirty-nine of the delegates present voted in favor; three were opposed. Thirteen delegates were absent and of these, seven were believed to favor the Constitution.

3. As acknowledged leader in Pennsylvania and one of the world's most recognized savants, it was Benjamin Franklin's part to entertain the delegates. He wrote to his sister that his new dining room would seat twenty-four. He had a generous hand with the port.

4. During the entire summer of 1787 Washington was a guest in the home of Robert Morris. The Morris family had bought as their summer residence a large mansion on a wooded hill above the Schuylkill river. They had an ice house, hot house, stable for twelve horses, and lived in splendid luxury.

5. A rule of secrecy existed during the Convention, for which there was some criticism. It seemed impossible to keep old Dr. Franklin quiet. It has been said that a discreet delegate would attend Franklin's convivial dinners, heading off the conversation when one of the Doctor's anecdotes threatened to reveal secrets of the Convention.

6. The Statehouse was comparatively cool when entering from the baking streets of an unusually hot summer. The east chamber was large, forty by forty with a twenty foot ceiling and no supporting pillars to break the floorspace. Tall, wide windows were on two sides, covered by slatted blinds to keep out the summer sun. Gravel had been strewn on the streets outside to deaden the sound of wheels and horses passing.

7. During an especially difficult week when agreement seemed impossible, Benjamin Franklin suggested that a chaplain be invited to open each morning meeting with prayer. North Carolina's Hugh Williamson bluntly replied that the Convention had no money to pay a chaplain. The state budgets in 1787 were exceedingly slim, and the finances of the delegates were constantly changing.

8. On Monday, May 28th, the last of the eight delegates from Pennsylvania arrived. Jared Ingersoll was to remain silent for the entire four months of the Convention. This was an extraordinary feat for the man often described as "the ablest jury lawyer in Philadelphia."

9. Washington was not a facile speaker. "He speaks with great diffidence," wrote a foreign observer, "and sometimes hesitates for a word...His language is manly and expressive." He was rarely seen to smile and his manners were uncommonly reserved. It was felt, however, that power would not turn his head, and he was never overbearing.

10. The fourth of Delaware's five delegates arrived on May 28th. Gunning Bedford, Jr., was tall, sociable, corpulent, and known as an impetuous speaker who did not hesitate to make trouble if trouble was in order. Bedford, attorney general of his state, came to